

**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 1852-1-3

First Inventor PESKIN, Johan

Title IMPROVED CONTROL OF AUDIO/VIDEO PLAYOUT ON A
COMPUTER WITH DEDICATED AUDIO/VIDEO CONTROL KEYS

Express Mail Label No. EJ754983859US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 33]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 5]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
 - a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for a continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

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7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
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 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
 - c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATIONS PARTS

9. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent.
17. ☐ Other. _____

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No: _____ / _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____

Group / Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.**17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**☒ Customer Number or Bar Code Labelor ☒ Correspondence address below

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL
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TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 974**Complete if Known**

Application Number	
Filing Date	November 17, 2000
First Named Inventor	PESKIN, Jonah
Examiner Name	
Group / Art Unit	
Attorney Docket No.	1852-1-3

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

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- Applicant claims small entity status
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- See 37 CFR 1.27

- 2.
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Fee Code	Large Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for reply within first month	
116	390	216	195	Extension for reply within second month	
117	890	217	445	Extension for reply within third month	
118	1,390	218	695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128	1,890	228	945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119	310	219	155	Notice of Appeal	
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141	1,240	241	620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142	1,240	242	620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	440	243	220	Design issue fee	
144	600	244	300	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	130	123	130	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	180	126	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	40
146	710	246	355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149	710	249	355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179	710	279	355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169	900	169	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3)

(\$ 40)

FEE CALCULATION**1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	710	201	355	Utility filing fee	355
106	320	206	160	Design filing fee	
107	490	207	245	Plant filing fee	
108	710	208	355	Reissue filing fee	
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1)

(\$ 355)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Multiple Dependent	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
71	6		51	9	459
			3	40	120
					0

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	80	202	40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109	80	209	40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

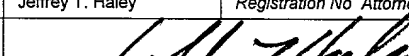
SUBTOTAL (2)

(\$ 579)

**or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see above

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Signature				Date	November 17, 2000

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PATENT APPLICATION - CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Inventors: Jonah Peskin
Robert Richmond

Title of Invention: IMPROVED CONTROL OF AUDIO/VIDEO PLAYOUT ON A
COMPUTER WITH DEDICATED AUDIO/VIDEO CONTROL
KEYS

Attorney Dkt. No.: 1852-1-3

JC815 U.S. PTO

09/716052



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IMPROVED CONTROL OF AUDIO/VIDEO PLAYOUT ON A COMPUTER WITH DEDICATED AUDIO/VIDEO CONTROL KEYS

FIELD OF INVENTION

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This invention relates to use of dedicated audio/video control keys on computing devices that execute programs for playing audio or video works.

BACKGROUND

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Since compact disc drives were added to personal computers many years ago, personal computers have been used for playing first audio and then video works of authorship. The common implementations use either a mouse or a standard text keyboard to control the playout software. If a mouse is used, images of buttons for some of the customary playout control functions (play, stop, pause, fast forward, rewind, skip to next or last track, volume, mute, and change channel) are displayed on the screen. The mouse controls cursor movement, and a click of the mouse when the cursor is over a button causes the playout software to control the playout accordingly. If a standard text keyboard is used, keys of the keyboard will be selected for each of the control functions listed above, such as "P" for play and right and left arrows for fast-forward and rewind. The audio/video playout control software is typically loaded to the computing device from a transportable disc or may be downloaded across a network for installation or may be embedded in a markup language page such as with use of a Java applet or ActiveX control embedded in an HTML page which is transparent to the user and requires little to no action by the user to install or begin execution of the software.

25

30

Users of computer systems to play audio/video works can add remote control devices such as those commonly used for televisions or for audio stereo systems to allow control of the playout of audio/video works from anywhere in the same room. Radio or infrared receiving devices for such remote controls can be

added to an input port on the computer, such as a USB (Universal Serial Bus) port. Then, a specialized audio/video work playout program is added which includes instructions to receive keystroke data through the port and interpret said data in order to recognize remote control key presses. This allows the remote
5 key presses to effect audio/video playout according to which key is pressed.

As audio/video playout programs became commonplace on personal computers, it became desirable to be able to control a wide variety of audio/video control programs that are designed for text keyboard input using a hand-held remote. To accomplish this, special software (sometimes called a "wedge") can
10 be installed on the computer to control communications through the port, receive keystroke data from the remote control, translate the keystroke data to standard text keystroke data such as "P" for play, and provide the standard keystroke data to the operating system which provides it to the playout control software. Thus, with the remote control added to the computer system and the special control
15 software installed, the remote control can simulate keystrokes at the text keyboard to control audio/video playout control software designed for receiving text keyboard input. Then the user can control the audio/video playout control software using either the text keyboard or the remote control.

There are two serious deficiencies with this system. First, the system can
20 no longer use for their original intended purpose the standard text keys that are used to indicate audio/video playout control. For example, a playout control program that uses "P" to indicate "pause playout" or left and right arrows to indicate "previous audio/video work" or "next audio/video work" are not able to use these same keys to allow the user to type a music artist or song name into
25 an edit box. Second, the translator program must be tailored to work with differing varieties of audio/video playout programs, all of which use differing keys to represent each playout control action.

Newer operating systems, such as Microsoft's Windows 2000, address these problems by creating a standard set of key codes that are passed to
30 applications when a playout control key is pressed. These standard key codes are used specifically for keyboards or other input devices with dedicated keys for

playout control purposes. This method carries the advantage that any application can be easily made to recognize playout control key presses.

This approach still suffers from deficiencies because the operating system delivers each playout control key press event to software programs in the same way that a text keyboard key event would be delivered. Specifically, if a user presses a key when several software programs are running, the operating system must determine which one of those applications is to receive the notification of key-press, or “key event”. The existing approach is to send key press information only to the application window with which the user is actively interacting. This approach makes sense for most applications, but audio/video playout control applications—in particular, audio player programs—are an exception.

It is a common occurrence to simultaneously execute an audio/video playout program and another program that demands user input, such as a word processor. Typically the audio/video playout program is run in the background because it requires less user attention to operate. However, because existing systems send keystrokes to the foreground program, the user must explicitly select the audio/video program to be the foreground program (usually by moving the mouse over the audio/video playout program window and clicking the mouse), before being able to send audio/video playout key-press events to the audio/video playout program. This adds an additional, inconvenient and unnecessary step to audio/video playout program operation.

The requirement that the user must specifically select the audio/video playout control application to perform audio/video playout control is particularly confusing to the user when presented with a web page that consists of a markup language with one or more embedded applications. In this case, though the user is presented with what appears to be a single web application, it is in reality a conglomerate of one or more applications as well as text, graphics, and user interface items such as checkboxes or text boxes where one may provide input using the keyboard or mouse. On the web page, in order to control the audio/video playout application, the user must select the portion of the web page

that displays the playout application to place it in the "foreground" before being able to press a playout control key that will control the embedded audio/video playout program. Furthermore, if the user were to click on any other web page constituents, the playout application would no longer receive keyboard events, preventing the user from using the dedicated audio/video keys to control audio/video playout.

In modern operating systems, where multiple computer programs may operate concurrently as one or more "windows" on a screen, or as one or more "child" windows of a web browser, standard keyboard-press events are communicated by the operating system to the window that has the "keyboard focus" (is in the "foreground"). The keyboard focus is typically assigned by the user to a window by placing the mouse cursor over a window and clicking a mouse button. If the assigned window is a window where the user can type text, often a flashing text cursor can be seen in the window that has the keyboard focus. Windows that do not have flashing text cursors typically indicate visually that they have the keyboard focus by changing the color of the application's primary window's title bar.

On existing computers equipped with a common (text) keyboard as well as dedicated keys for audio/video playout control (sometimes on a wireless handheld remote), such dedicated audio/video control key-presses are communicated to the application window that has the keyboard focus, just as are standard key presses. Alternatively, the operating software delivers audio/video key events only to a specialized set of programs customized for the device.

SUMMARY

This invention comprises systems that enable a software program to receive audio/video key events without requiring the user to explicitly direct the keyboard focus to the playout program. The invention simplifies the user interface because it allows audio/video playout buttons to control a web-

embedded audio/video player even if the user has not explicitly set the keyboard focus within the web page to that audio/video player.

Note that though the figures in this document indicate that the audio/video playout window is visible to the user at all times, it is a common technique to hide a program window by specifying dimensions of zero width and zero height for the program's window. In this case, the inventions as described are still effective, and indeed more important because the user has no clear way to set the keyboard focus to the application by using the mouse or keyboard.

The invention includes methods that allow a computer user to communicate audio/video key events to applications that do not have a window in the foreground. This is accomplished by creating two keyboard focuses: one for regular text input and a second for audio/video keyboard input. By having two separate keyboard focuses, the user may assign the audio/video keyboard focus to any playout program that may be running in the foreground or background on the computer. The user may then set the text keyboard focus to any other computer program, without affecting the placement of the audio/video keyboard focus. Furthermore, the user may reassign the audio/video keyboard focus to another executing playout program at any time. Additionally, the user may enter a default mode, whereby the audio/video focus window is the same as the text keyboard focus window. This frees the user from thinking about multiple keyboard focuses when their usage is not required.

Another shortcoming of existing systems that is addressed by this invention is the need for playout programs to be able to determine whether the user has pressed a playout control key on a keyboard that is typically used at short range (such as a typing keyboard) or on a keyboard that is typically used at long range (such as a hand-held remote). This is desirable because a program may be better suited to different modes of operation when the user presses audio/video control buttons on a hand-held remote. For example, it is desirable to temporarily display text in an enlarged font if the user presses buttons on a hand-held remote, because presumably the user is operating the computer from a distance that makes regular screen text viewing difficult. This is accomplished

by delivering, along with key event notification data, an indication of whether the key was pressed on a short-range keyboard or a long-range keyboard.

Alternatively, a new set of distinct codes may be used to identify each long-range keyboard key.

5 The invention is most useful on computers equipped with specialized keyboards that have audio/video playout keys or on computers that have an auxiliary audio/video keyboard ("handheld remote") to control audio/video playout programs. However, many of the embodiments described are useful on computer systems with playout programs that use regular text keys ("P" for Play,
10 "S" for Stop, "Up Arrow" for Volume Up) that are dedicated to controlling audio/video playout.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 FIG. 1 is a diagram of a web browser displaying typical web page constituents.

 FIG. 2 is a top view of a hand-held keypad whose keys consist only of audio/video playout control keys.

20 FIG. 3 is a top view of a traditional keyboard with the addition of specialized audio/video playout control keys.

 FIG. 4 is a diagram of program window hierarchy on a modern operating system "desktop" display.

 FIG 5. is a diagram of the communications between a "wedge server" program that is added to an operating system to enable an auxiliary audio/video
25 keyboard focus, and the "event client" programs that receive audio/video key events from the wedge program by the Microsoft COM protocol.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

30 It is common to create a web page that is composed by a markup language and/or scripting language that specifies the arrangement of web page

"constituents": text, images, hyperlinks, keyboard or mouse input boxes, audio/video works, and embedded applications such as Java applets or ActiveX controls. Figure 1 shows a block diagram of an example web page 13 as displayed in a web browser display window 10.

5 For the purposes of the present invention, a web browser is any computer application that interprets a data set in a generalized form suitable for interpretation by many different computer systems to create a display to a user, and a web page is such a data set in any generalized form, including a frame. A web browser is typically designed to interpret human-readable markup languages
10 that describe the arrangement of web page constituents and present said arrangement to the computer user. Such markup language web pages are often sourced from a server computer over a computer network such as the Internet, using HTTP protocol, but other transmission protocols may be used, and web pages may originate from other places such as a storage device in the computer
15 on which the web browser is executing.

The markup language described is preferably HTML but it can be any sequence of human readable computer instructions that are interpreted by a web browser to specify the arrangement of both useful information or entertainment and embedded computer programs (Java applets/ActiveX controls). Such
20 currently known markup languages include SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), WML (Wireless Markup Language), HDML (Handheld Device Markup Language), and Extensible Markup Language (XML). Other similar languages, some of which are not called "markup" languages, are in development and still more will be developed in the future. For purposes of the
25 present invention, the essential function of the markup language is that it allows an executable program, whether compiled or interpreted or semi-compiled to non human-readable byte-code which is then interpreted, to be loaded by the web browser as a constituent of a web page, and to automatically execute on the device without requiring attention or action by the user while the user is receiving
30 information desired by the user from the web browser. The information typically includes visually displayed information including text, but that is not an essential

component for purposes of this invention. The information could be entirely auditory, such as music or spoken words.

Markup languages are often accompanied by scripting languages such as JavaScript, JScript, VBScript, or ECMAScript that are human-readable

5 instructions interpreted by the web browser/operating system in order to affect how each web page constituent appears and behaves as a function of time and as a function of user input such as keyboard and mouse movement or clicks.

Such scripting languages are often used to coordinate the visual display or operation of the constituents of a web page. This is preferably done using the

10 DOM (Document Object Model) whose essential function is to provide a standard definition of the relationships of various web page constituents and to provide a nomenclature that scripting languages may use to access them. Other similar languages, some of which are not called "scripting" languages, are in development and still more will be developed in the future.

15 For the purposes of the invention, the essential function of the script program is to cause programs on the client machine to detect and respond to keystrokes or mouse clicks that are sent to the web browser, web page, or web page constituents, and to operate on web page constituents in order to change their appearance, keyboard focus, or if they are embedded programs, to
20 communicate messages to the programs.

It is common to imbed into a web page an audio/video playout program such as the Microsoft Media Player ActiveX control or RealPlayer ActiveX control. This allows the user to hear or view an audio/video work within the context of the web page without opening a separate application window for the
25 audio/video player program.

Sometimes the player program will allow the user to control playout by dedicating certain keys as playout control keys such as pressing the letter "P" to pause or pressing the up or down arrows to increase or decrease volume.

Traditional keyboard keys are usually used for these functions because most
30 computers and operating systems do not have specialized keys and

corresponding key codes for audio/video playout control. However, it is expected

that playout programs will be designed to respond to such specialized keys as they become commonplace on keyboards, as in Figure 3, or as auxiliary hand-held keypads, as in Figure 2.

On computers and operating systems that do not have specialized audio/video control keys, it is common to add a specialized wireless keypad to a computer, and add a specialized program to receive data from said wireless keypad and translate it into the traditional keystrokes which are sent to an audio/video playout application in order to effect the desired playout control.

In the preferred embodiment of this invention, the keypad is an infrared remote such as those used to control traditional home entertainment electronics, and the infrared signals are translated to digital codes that are sent to a personal computer through the USB port. However, the remote may alternatively use radio frequency communication to transmit key press information, and the means of communication to a PC may be the serial port, IEEE 1394 port, IrDA port, ISA (Industry Standard Architecture) bus, PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) bus, BlueTooth, 802.11, or any other communications port or bus, including those that are still under development or may be developed in the future.

Regardless of whether the audio/video playout program detects traditional key events, or specialized audio/video key events, existing operating systems deliver both types of key events to the playout program in the same manner. That is, the window that has the keyboard focus will be the sole window to receive key events.

Optionally, the application window with keyboard focus may choose to pass key press events to its “parent” window—the window in which the application window resides. Common operating systems adopt the notion of child windows and parent windows, as shown in Figure 4. The topmost window is typically called the “Desktop” window **19** and application displays **40**, **44** have primary windows **41**, **45** that are the child windows of the desktop window **19**. In Figure 4, the desktop window **19** is the parent to two child application windows **41**, **45**. Furthermore, any child windows, such as **41** and **45** may act as the parent windows to their own child windows. Windows **42** and **43** are child

windows to the parent window **41**. Windows **46** and **47** are child windows to the parent window **44**. In this document, a parent window and its child windows (and their child windows, etcetera) will be referred to collectively as a “window family” designated by the name of the parent.

5 An essential function of this window hierarchy is to provide a clear sequence that describes how user input events, such as key presses or mouse clicks, are processed by applications. When a child window has the keyboard focus, it is the first window to receive key events from the operating system. This window then has the option to pass the key event to its parent window. The
10 parent window may then act on the key event, sometimes by passing the event to its parent.

 In the preferred embodiment, the operating system is Microsoft Windows 2000, but the invention applies to all operating systems that implement the same parent-child window hierarchy and share this system of key event propagation.

15 Most audio/video playout control programs exist as stand-alone applications. That is, they have their own primary application window **41**, **45**. This means that even if the application has a child window that has the keyboard focus, the parent window will receive key press notification from the child window as long each as child window passes key press events up to its parent window.
20 To allow dedicated audio/video playout keys to function at all times, existing playout programs consist of only a primary application window or they ensure that every user-selectable child window passes playout control key events to its parent. Then the primary application window, when receiving key events, will always affect audio/video playout. In this way, as long as one of the application’s
25 windows has the keyboard focus, the desired playout control will occur as a result of playout key presses.

Web page embedded playout programs

 This technique becomes less effective when the audio/video playout
30 program is not a stand-alone application, but instead is embedded in a web page. As shown in Figure 1, a web page embedded program window **50** is a

child window of the web page window **13**. This means that, unless the window of the web page embedded program has the keyboard focus, or one of its child windows has the keyboard focus, the embedded program will not receive

keyboard events. For example, in the preferred embodiment, the web browser is Microsoft's Internet Explorer 5.5. In this web browser, when a web page is first opened, the web page window **13** automatically receives the keyboard focus.

Since the embedded audio/video playout program window **50** is a child window of the web page window **13**, it will not receive any key press events. This can be confusing to a user if the web page presents an audio/video work as the central

constituent of the web page. Even for users who understand that the embedded programs must have the keyboard focus to receive key press events, it is

inconvenient for the user to have to select the audio/video application in order to control playout using key presses. Web pages often consist of text, graphics, or hyperlinks that the user may want to click, for example to select text for copying,

or to follow a hyperlink. This clicking action will cause the web page window **13** to receive the keyboard focus, and keyboard key events will no longer be

delivered to the embedded application. This is particularly inconvenient for the users who may inadvertently set the keyboard focus to a window that is not the audio/video player application, and then step away from the computer and

attempt to perform playout control using a hand-held remote keypad. Beyond the inconvenience, it may in fact be impossible or extremely difficult for the user to set the keyboard focus to the player program window **50** due to the fact that some web pages may choose to hide the player program window **50** from the user by setting its height and width dimensions to zero or some small number.

In order to solve this problem, two solutions are presented.

1. Embedded program or associated script frequently requests keyboard focus

In a first embodiment of the invention, as shown in Figure 1, the web-embedded audio/video application is the only web page constituent that needs to process and respond to key events. In this case, the embedded player includes

instructions to continuously request they keyboard focus from the operating system/web browser. The rate is preferably slow enough to ensure minimized processor usage, but high enough to ensure lively user interface responsiveness, such as between 100Hz and 1Hz in an Intel Pentium processor running at 300

5 MHz. In this manner, even if the user clicks on a part of the desktop window **19** or a part of the web page window **13** outside of the audio/video program window **50**, the keyboard focus will quickly be redirected to the proper program window **50**. There may, in fact be other embedded programs on this web page which are capable of receiving the keyboard focus by user-specification. However, as long
10 as those programs do not need to react to keyboard input, it is not a problem for the user if the keyboard focus is immediately reassigned to the audio/video playout program window.

While some operating systems and web browsers, such as Windows 2000 and Internet Explorer 5.5, allow the embedded application itself to obtain the
15 keyboard focus by request, it is also possible to use a scripting language to cause the web browser to set the keyboard focus to a specific web page constituent. Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the JavaScript language instructs the web browser to set the keyboard focus to the embedded audio/video program window **50** on a continual basis.

20 Note that in this solution, the embedded application does not include instructions that may affect its keyboard focus relative to other web page constituents. Instead, the web browser, by interpreting the web page markup and scripting languages, will set the keyboard focus to the appropriate web page constituent. This is preferred because keyboard focus instructions are not
25 included in the embedded program. This enables the same program to be used in a wide variety of web pages, allowing the web page composer freedom to determine with a script how and if the embedded audio/video application should have the keyboard focus. In this manner, the same audio/video application can be utilized on a wide number of web pages under different usage scenarios.

30

2. Browser and all constituents instruct audio/video control program

The above solution has a drawback when there are other web page constituents besides a playout control program to which the user may want to intentionally assign the keyboard focus. For example, in Figure 1, a web page may incorporate a search function where the user may type in to a key entry window **101** that is a child window of the web page window **13** rather than the window of the playout control program. In this arrangement, it would be undesirable to continuously assign the keyboard focus to the playout control program window **50** because the user may want to place the keyboard focus in the text box window **101** in order to type in, for example, the title of an audio/video work that the user would like to see or hear. In this case, a better approach is to write scripting language instructions that instruct the browser to use a window within its window family to intercept and interpret key events intended for web page constituents that are not part of the embedded audio/video player program.

If the web browser were capable of redirecting key events that are directed to any child window of the browser window to an embedded program, it would be sufficient to use a script to cause the browser to simply capture all key events to all web page constituents, and redirect key events resulting from audio/video control key events to the audio/video player window **50**. However, for security reasons, known web browsers do not allow scripting programs or embedded applications to communicate key or mouse events to other web page constituents (which is how a redirection of a key event would be done).

The solution of this invention is to place within the embedded audio/video control program a means for the scripting language to control playout by accessing "methods" of the audio/video program which are made available to the scripting language by way of the Document Object Model specification. The preferred implementation uses the JavaScript language to cause the browser to use one of the browser family windows to capture all key events, then detect whether each key event is from an audio/video control key and, in the event that

it is, to activate the corresponding audio/video control action by calling the available methods of the web-embedded application.

However, although contemporary browsers are able to intercept key events sent to regular web page constituents such as text boxes, they are unable to intercept key events that are delivered directly by the operating system to web embedded programs which may have their own windows within the browser family of windows and may request the keyboard focus. In this case, each web embedded program on the web page that may have the keyboard focus must be written to detect audio/video control key events and then notify the web-embedded audio/video player to perform the corresponding playout control action via the DOM method described above.

Use of uncommon text key codes

An important extension of the invention for both of the above embodiments addresses the problem that most existing web browsers and operating systems do not have specialized key codes for audio/video playout control keys. In this case, existing audio/video playout programs use traditional keys, such as "P" for play, "S" for stop, etc. to control playout. Another reason to use such keys is that browsers and scripting languages of present operating systems may not yet be capable of processing audio/video control keys.

However, using traditional keyboard buttons to control audio/video playout presents problems for the embodiments presented above. This is because these keys may be needed to indicate input into another web page constituent, such as a text box, for purposes other than playout control. If a playout control key is pressed while entering text data, playout control will inadvertently be activated.

An extension to the invention solves this problem by using key codes that the browser and scripting language can process, but that would not normally be used when typing into a text box. The following table is an example of such key codes:

Playout Control Button	Substitute Character Representation	ASCII Code
PLAY	{	123
STOP	}	125
PAUSE		124
VOLUME UP	^	94
VOLUME DOWN	_	95
REWIND	<	60
FAST FORWARD	>	62

Thus, a JavaScript program can intercept these keys when typed into a text box and perform the corresponding playout control action using the Document Object Model to access the playout program. As described above, any other embedded program designed to receive text input should be written to receive the input from the browser in the form of a DOM command rather than key events from the operating system so that these unusual characters will not appear as text in the program. Alternatively, the script program should cancel the key event, if possible, to ensure that it is not also interpreted as a key that is intended for the text box. Otherwise the character will appear in the box and confuse the user.

Using such non-traditional key characters for playout control might at first be considered confusing to the user. However, the intention of this invention is for it to be used in conjunction with a specialized "wedge" program that interfaces with the audio/video playout control keyboard and translates each detected key-press to the key events in the table above. Thus, the user does not need to remember these specialized key codes. Instead the user simply presses a playout control key, which is translated to the proper key code and delivered to the window that has the keyboard focus.

A problem that arises here is that a web page composer may wish to embed an audio/video playout program that does not detect specialized keys such as those presented in the above table but nevertheless can obtain the

keyboard focus if selected by the user. Such as program would be designed to work with non-key event controls as described above. If such a program were used with the above system and the user were to explicitly set the keyboard focus to the audio/video playout program and then press a playout control key, nothing would happen. The playout program would not recognize these keys, and contemporary web page script programs cannot intercept key events directed to embedded programs.

A solution to this problem is to write the web page script such that if the audio/video playout window receives the keyboard focus, the script will immediately reassign the keyboard focus to the web page window so that the above described processes can take over.

Control of audio/video keyboard focus whether inside or outside of a web browser.

Unfortunately, none of the above embodiments solves the problem of a user wanting to enter text input in one program window, and send audio/video keyboard input to a different program window without changing the text keyboard focus. For example (see Figure 5), the user may want to execute a word processing program in the foreground, and at the same time execute audio/video playout programs in background windows. A user might work at the computer using the word processor program, but occasionally step away from the computer and desire to use an audio/video control keypad to control a background audio/video playout program. Or one user may be word processing on the computer while a cohort controls a background audio/video playout program using a hand-held remote.

The following embodiments of the invention allow the audio/video keyboard focus to be set to any number of computer program windows. This is accomplished by treating the audio/video keyboard focus as a separate keyboard focus that is not set in the same way as the text keyboard focus. In the following embodiments, any number of computer programs can receive the audio/video keyboard focus without requiring reassignment of the text keyboard focus. Such

programs may be embedded in a web page **73** or they may execute as applications **72** that are independent of a web browser. In these embodiments, one program may have the audio/video keyboard focus, while another program maintains the text keyboard focus. Thus, audio/video control key events are delivered to a single audio/video playout program **72** or **73**, and text keystrokes are delivered in the common way to the foreground window **70** that has the text keyboard focus.

3. Multiple keyboard focuses added to existing operating systems

For security reasons, modern operating systems such as Windows 2000 do not allow programs to send key events to any window except the foreground window, nor do they allow programs to change the text keyboard focus between executing programs. Additionally, operating systems that have key event codes for audio/video control keys deliver such event codes to the window with the keyboard focus. Thus, to communicate audio/video control key events to a window that does not have the keyboard focus, it is necessary to deliver audio/video key events by another means.

In a preferred embodiment, Microsoft's Component Object Model (COM) is used for auxiliary key event delivery. However, other inter-process communication methods, such as shared memory, pipes, sockets, CORBA, RMI, or Microsoft's general-purpose window message passing, may be used instead.

In existing computers with audio/video keyboards, the wedge program receives information from the audio/video key hardware and translates that information into key events that are delivered to the operating system, which in turn delivers the key events to the window that has the keyboard focus. In this embodiment of the invention, as shown in Figure 5, to deliver key events to various program windows, the wedge program **71** uses Microsoft COM **74**. First, the wedge program must know which programs are able to receive audio/video key events (herein referred to as "event client" programs **72**, **73**). Since there may be any number of such programs, at startup each event client uses the COM architecture to locate and register its existence with the wedge "server"

program 71. In this way, the wedge server 71 can keep track of all programs that are capable of receiving audio/video key events. An important part of this registration process is that the client program 72, 73 provides the wedge server with information (sometimes called a “reference”, “handle”, or “pointer”) that
5 allows the wedge server 71 to find and pass key event information to the event client program 72, 73. By keeping a reference to every program that needs to receive audio/video key events, the wedge server 71 can deliver key events to any one of these known key event clients 72, 73. Similarly, an event client
10 program 72, 73 notifies the wedge server when it would like to be removed from the list of event client programs. This is typically done when the event client program terminates execution. Alternatively, the wedge server may remove the event client from its list upon detecting that the event client program is no longer executing.

When an audio/video key is pressed, only one of the event client
15 programs is notified of the key event, and this program is considered to have the “audio/video keyboard focus”. This simplifies the user interface by ensuring that a single audio/video key-press controls only one audio/video playout program at a time. Accordingly, there must be a means of specifying which program is to receive the audio/video keyboard focus.

20 The default behavior is for the audio/video keyboard focus to be assigned to the same window that has the text keyboard focus. That is, when the user sets the text keyboard focus to a program window, that program window also receives the audio/video keyboard focus. This is a desirable default behavior because it frees the user from having to think about the assignment of the
25 audio/video keyboard focus most of the time. However, the user may override this default behavior in order to set the audio/video keyboard focus to a window other than the window with the text keyboard focus.

To implement the above method, the wedge server 71 in default mode sends audio/video key events to the operating system, which passes them to the
30 window with the text keyboard focus. When the user selects a particular window to retain the audio/video keyboard focus (for example, by mouse-clicking on a

designated button in that window), the wedge server uses the COM protocol to pass audio/video key events to the application specified by the user, regardless of which application window in the foreground has the text keyboard focus.

There are several user interfaces that can allow the user to specify which window is to retain the audio/video keyboard focus. One method is for each event client program to present the user with a mouse-clickable button that, when activated, causes the event client **72, 73** to notify the wedge server **71** program that audio/video key events should be delivered only to that event client program. However, this method has the drawback that a malicious event client program may notify the wedge server that it is to hold the audio/video keyboard focus even if the user has not requested this behavior.

An alternative user interface eliminates this problem by having the user interact with the wedge server **71** program window in order to specify which program is to receive the audio/video keyboard focus. Each event client program, when registering its existence with the wedge server, specifies a word or phrase that identifies the program to the user (preferably, the word or phrase in the program's main window title bar). The user then observes the wedge server **71** window which displays a list of programs that may hold the audio/video keyboard focus. The user indicates which one of these programs is to hold the audio/video keyboard focus by moving the mouse over the corresponding identifying phrase and clicking the mouse.

Regardless of the user interface presented to the user, when the user specifies a window to hold the audio/video keyboard focus, any other window that presently has the audio/video keyboard focus immediately loses the focus in favor of the more recently specified window. Also, there is a user interface means for the user to specify that the audio/video focus should return to the default mode where the audio/video keyboard focus is the same as the text keyboard focus. This can be accomplished several ways, such as including a mouse-clickable button in the wedge server **71** window that causes the server to enter the default mode. Or the same user interface that is used to specify the selection of the audio/video focus may be used to turn off the focus to that

window. That is, if the user selects a window for the audio/video keyboard focus that already has the focus, this is interpreted as a desire to turn the focus off of that window, and enter the default mode.

Thus, according to the above methods, the user may turn the audio/video keyboard focus on or off for any audio/video key event client program, and only one such application may hold the audio/video keyboard focus at any time.

4. Multiple keyboard focuses built into an improved operating system

It is common for text keyboard focus and key event processing to be built into the operating system so that another program running on the operating system cannot maliciously change text keyboard focus from the user's specification. In the embodiment described above, the wedge server and event client programs are not built into the operating system, thus they are subject to interference from other programs. Furthermore, the above embodiment requires significant work on the part of playout program developers in order to ensure that their programs comply with the wedge server event delivery architecture. Also, the above embodiment requires special registration methods to allow the wedge server program to gain a reference to each application that may receive audio/video key events. In contrast, the operating system is responsible for loading computer programs, thus it already has a means of finding and passing information to all executing programs.

Thus, in a preferred embodiment, the audio/video keyboard focus is incorporated directly into the operating system, so that neither the user, nor another program may inadvertently or intentionally misdirect the delivery of audio/video key events or the assignment of the audio/video keyboard focus.

In this preferred embodiment, audio/video key events are delivered in a similar manner as regular text keyboard events. This means that programs running on the operating system require minimal additional programming effort in order to interpret audio/video key events, since they can use the same software architecture as regular key event processing. Audio/video keyboard focus

selection is built into the operating system to prevent malicious programs from changing the audio/video focus to a window that was not specified by the user.

In contrast to existing operating systems, the audio/video keyboard focus behaves in the manner described by the previous embodiment. That is, by

5 default the audio/video keyboard focus follows the text keyboard focus.

However, the user may set the audio/video keyboard focus to another computer program. For example, in Microsoft Windows the text keyboard focus can be set by moving the mouse over a program window and clicking the left mouse button.

If the right button is clicked, a "pop-up" window displays various actions to

10 perform on that window (such as minimize, close, or maximize). One of such options could be to hold the audio/video keyboard focus. Alternatively, just as

most programs include mouse clickable buttons in their title bars in order to minimize, maximize or close the window, an additional button may be included to turn on or off the audio/video focus to that window. Or a special key or

15 combination of keys (such as Ctrl-Alt-Insert) may be pressed while the desired window is in the foreground, which causes the foreground window to hold the audio/video focus if another window is subsequently assigned the text keyboard

focus. Alternatively, a special key or combination of keys may be reserved to cycle through all executing computer programs that can receive the audio/video

20 focus, where each time the special key is pressed, the next executing program is assigned the audio/video focus (perhaps indicated visually by a different color window border). This particular approach is most usefully applied using the keys on a hand-held keypad so that the audio/video focus can be selected from a distance without using the mouse or text keyboard.

25 **Distinction between local key presses and remote key presses**

Contemporary computer systems may include either a keyboard designed for short-range (local) usage (such as a traditional text keyboard as in Figure 3)

or a keyboard designed for long-range (remote) usage (such as a hand-held

30 remote as in Figure 2) or both such keyboards. Systems with such dual keyboard capabilities make no attempt to indicate to audio/video payout

programs whether a key press occurred on a short-range keyboard versus a long-range keyboard.

This is valuable information to a playout program, because a different mode of operation may be desirable depending on which keyboard is being used.

- 5 For example, a video playout program may automatically enter a full-screen mode if it detects that the user has pressed a key on a long-range (remote) keyboard. Or an audio playout program may temporarily display a large on-screen indicator (more easily viewable from a distance) of the audio output volume if a volume adjustment key is pressed on a long-range keyboard.

- 10 Rather than requiring the user to notify a program to increase its display size if a long-range keyboard is being used (as would be done on common systems), it is better if the program is notified with each key-press whether the key originated from a short-range or long-range keyboard. This is accomplished by adding just one bit to each key event message. A "one" bit indicates that the
15 key originated from a long-range keyboard, and a "zero" bit indicates that the key originated from a short-range keyboard. Alternatively, an entirely new set of key codes may be used for each key on a long-range keyboard, if those keys exist in duplicate on short-range keyboards.

- 20 In this manner, the user may easily switch between short-range keyboard use and long-range keyboard use, and the playout program is notified of this change by each new key press.

- 25 There are several ways to improve a computer program's user interface if the program is able to detect the difference between local versus remote key presses. For example, the user may run a video playout program that displays a video clip in a window. When a remote key press is detected, the program enlarges the video to occupy the entire screen to make long-range viewing easier. This is done until a local key press is detected, and the playout program returns to its original size and location on the screen. Or a user may run an
30 audio playout program that normally displays its volume setting in a small graphical indicator. When the user presses a remote button to change the volume, the program displays a large, full-screen volume indicator that can be

seen from large distances. This indicator is displayed for a programmable amount of time (for example 0.5 to 5 seconds) in order to allow the user to see the volume setting. After this pre-programmed time elapses, the program no longer displays the large volume indicator, so that other on-screen graphics may be viewed more easily. This same method can be employed when the user presses buttons to fast-forward or rewind an audio/video clip. In this case, the on-screen indicator is a large horizontal "progress bar" whose degree of opaqueness indicates the current point of payout in the clip. That is, if the song is halfway through payout, the progress bar is half opaque, and the other half is the screen's background color.

The above described embodiments of the invention are only examples. Many other embodiments are possible. The scope of the invention should not be limited to the above embodiments but should only be limited by the following claims:

We claim:

(A. Embedded program frequently requests keyboard focus)

1. **(client method)** A method in a network computing device for allowing a user to control playout of an audio/video work via a program embedded in a web page, comprising:

running a program embedded within a web page which:

- a) requests and, so long as it is running, periodically rerequests of an operating system the keyboard focus, and
- b) upon receipt of a keyboard event, determines whether the event represents actuation of an audio/video control key and, if so, effects an action for the playout of an audio/video work.

2. The method of claim 1 where said program automatically launches.

3. The method of claim 1 where said program comprises a non human-readable program.

4. The method of claim 1 where said program comprises two parts consisting of a first part which causes a browser program to make said rerequests on behalf of a second part which effects an action for the playout of an audio/visual work.

5. The method of claim 1 where said keyboard events representing audio/video control keys comprise key data specifying uncommon text keyboard keys.

6. The method of claim 1 where the operating system provides to said program an indication of whether said audio/video control key is on a remote keypad.

7. **(server method)** A computer method performed on a server computer whereby a computer program is provided by the server across a network to a client computing device, which program, when run on the computing device, causes the device to perform the method of claim 1.

8. The method of claim 7 where said program automatically launches.

9. The method of claim 7 where said program comprises a non human-readable program.

5 10. The method of claim 7 where said program comprises two parts consisting of a first part which causes a browser program to make said rerequests on behalf of a second part which effects an action for the playout of an audio/visual work.

10 11. The method of claim 7 where said keyboard events representing audio/video control keys comprise key data specifying uncommon text keyboard keys.

12. The method of claim 7 where the operating system provides to said program an indication of whether said audio/video control key is on a remote keypad.

15 13. (software) A computer program which, when run on a computing device, causes the device to perform the method of claim 1.

14. The computer program of claim 13 where said program automatically launches.

15. The computer program of claim 13 where said program comprises a non human-readable program.

20 16. The computer program of claim 13 where said program comprises two parts consisting of a first part which causes a browser program to make said rerequests on behalf of a second part which effects an action for the playout of an audio/visual work.

25 17. The computer program of claim 13 where said keyboard events representing audio/video control keys comprise key data specifying uncommon text keyboard keys.

18. The computer program of claim 13 where the operating system provides to said program an indication of whether said audio/video control key is on a remote keypad.

(B. Browser and constituents instruct audio/video control program)

5 19. (client method) A method in a network computing device for allowing a user to control playout of an audio/video work via a pair of programs embedded in a web page, comprising:

- 10 a) running a first program embedded within a web page which, in response to commands from other programs, performs a desired function; and
- 15 b) running a second program embedded within a web page which causes a program associated with a browser family window on the device to determine whether keyboard events received in said window match events intended for said first program and, if they do, issue a command to said first program to perform an action indicated by said keyboard events.

20 20. The method of claim 19 where said first program is a non human-readable program.

21. The method of claim 19 where said second program is a script program executed by a browser program.

22. The method of claim 19 where said browser family window is a browser window.

23. The method of claim 19 where said browser family window is a child window of a browser window.

25 24. The method of claim 19 where said keyboard events comprise key data specifying uncommon text keyboard keys.

25. The method of claim 19 where said first program determines whether said keyboard events were generated in response to actuation on a remote keypad.

5 26. The method of claim 19 where said first program is an audio/video playout control program.

27. The method of claim 19 where said first program, when it receives the keyboard focus, reassigns the keyboard focus to another window.

10 28. (server method) A computer method performed on a server computer whereby a pair of computer programs is provided by the server across a network to a client computing device, which pair of programs, when run on the computing device, causes the device to perform the method of claim 19.

29. The method of claim 28 where said first program is a non human-readable program.

15 30. The method of claim 28 where said second program is a script program executed by a browser program.

31. The method of claim 28 where said browser family window is a browser window.

32. The method of claim 28 where said browser family window is a child window of a browser window.

20 33. The method of claim 28 where said keyboard events comprise key data specifying uncommon text keyboard keys.

34. The method of claim 28 where said first program determines whether said keyboard events were generated in response to actuation on a remote keypad.

25 35. The method of claim 28 where said first program is an audio/video playout control program.

36. The method of claim 28 where said first program, when it receives the keyboard focus, reassigns the keyboard focus to another window.

37. **(software)** A pair of computer programs which, when run on a computing device, cause the device to perform the method of claim 28.

38. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said first program is a non human-readable program.

5 39. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said second program is a script program executed by a browser program.

40. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said browser family window is a browser window.

10 41. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said browser family window is a browser window.

42. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said browser family window is a child window of a browser window.

43. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said keyboard events comprise key data specifying uncommon text keyboard keys.

15 44. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said first program determines whether said keyboard events were generated in response to actuation on a remote keypad.

45. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said first program is an audio/video playout control program.

20 46. The pair of computer programs of claim 37 where said first program, when it receives the keyboard focus, reassigns the keyboard focus to another window.

(C. Multiple keyboard focuses)

25 47. **(method)** A method in a computing device for allowing a user to enter text and control playout of an audio/video work, comprising:

- a) receiving from a user a selection of a text application program to receive a text keyboard focus;

- b) receiving from the user a selection of an audio/video application program to receive an audio/video keyboard focus; and
- c) directing text key event data to said text application program and concurrently directing audio/video key event data to said audio/video application program.

48. The method of claim 47 where said audio/video application program is a client of a key event data server program which receives key event data from audio/video keys.

49. The method of claim 47 where an improved operating system provides for user control of said audio/video keyboard focus independently of said text keyboard focus.

50. (software) A computer program which, when run on a computing device, causes the computing device to perform the method of claim 47.

51. The program of claim 50 where said audio/video application program is a client of a key event data server program which receives key event data from audio/video keys.

52. The program of claim 50 where an improved operating system provides for user control of said audio/video keyboard focus independently of said text keyboard focus.

53. (device) A computing device allowing a user to enter text and control playout of an audio/video work, comprising:

- (a) audio/video control keys;
- (b) text keys; and
- (c) a processor with a control program having:

a focus control which directs to a selected text application key events generated by actuation of said text keys; as well as

- a focus control which directs to a selected audio/video application key events generated by actuation of said audio/video control keys.

54. The device of claim 53 where said audio/video application program is a client of a key event data server program which receives key event data from said audio/video control keys.

5 55. The device of claim 53 where an improved operating system provides for user control of said audio/video keyboard focus independently of said text keyboard focus.

56. The device of claim 53 where the processor provides to said selected audio/video application an indication of whether an actuated audio/video control key is on a remote keypad.

10 **D. Distinction between short-range key presses and long-range key presses**

57. (device) A computing device with a local keypad and a remote key pad where an action of the device is determined in part by whether a key is pressed on the local keyboard or the remote keyboard, comprising:

- 15 (a) keys on a local key pad;
(b) keys on a remote keypad; and

a processor with a control program which provides key event data to an application program and indicates to said application program whether an associated key event was generated on the remote key pad.

20 58. The device of claim 57 where said application program is a client of a key event data server program which receives key event data from said remote key pad.

59. The device of claim 57 where the control program is an operating system program.

25 60. The device of claim 57 where said application program is an audio/video control program.

61. The device of claim 57 where said action is, in response to a remote key press, to present a display in a format that is larger than a similar display presented in response to a local key press.

62. **(method)** A method in a computing device with a local keypad and a remote key pad where an action of the device is determined in part by whether a key is pressed on the local keyboard or the remote keyboard, comprising:

- (a) receiving key event data from a press of a key on a remote key pad which key press signifies a desired action to an application program running on said device;
- (b) providing to said application program said key event data along with an indication that said key event was generated on a remote keypad; and
- (c) as a result of which, said application program performs an action which is different from an action than it would perform in response to a key press on a local keyboard signifying the desired action.

63. The method of claim 62 where said application program is a client of a key event data server program which receives key event data from said remote keypad.

64. The method of claim 62 where an operating system program performs step b.

65. The method of claim 62 where said application program is an audio/video control program.

66. The method of claim 62 where said action is, in response to a remote key press, to present a display in a format that is larger than a similar display presented in response to a local key press.

67. **(software)** A computer program which, when run on a computing device, causes the computing device to perform the method of claim 62.

68. The program of claim 67 where said application program is a client of a key event data server program which receives key event data from said remote keypad.

69. The program of claim 67 where an operating system program performs step b.

70. The program of claim 67 where said application program is an audio/video control program.

5 71. The program of claim 67 where said action is, in response to a remote key press, to present a display in a format that is larger than a similar display presented in response to a local key press.

ABSTRACT

Computer software allowing enhanced control of the playout of audio/video works on a computer system. In various embodiments, the software allows key events from dedicated audio/video keys, whether part of a full sized keyboard or on a hand held remote, to control the actions of an audio/video playout program without requiring the user to direct the key event focus of the operating system to the audio/video playout program. Also, the invention distinguishes between key presses from a local, full sized keyboard and key presses from a remote keyboard so that the audio/video playout program can enlarge its screen display when a key event is received from the remote keyboard. In one embodiment, the invention constantly instructs the operating system to move the focus to the audio/video playout program. In another embodiment, if the focus is received by any of various windows in a display, software associated with the window forwards to the audio/video playout program any key events received from audio/video keys. In a third embodiment, audio/video key event data is routed to the audio/video playout program by a method that does not use the key event features of the operating system, such as by using a key board wedge server program to serve key events to audio/video client programs. In a fourth embodiment, the operating system is modified so that it has two separate focuses, one for a text keyboard and a second focus for audio/video keys.

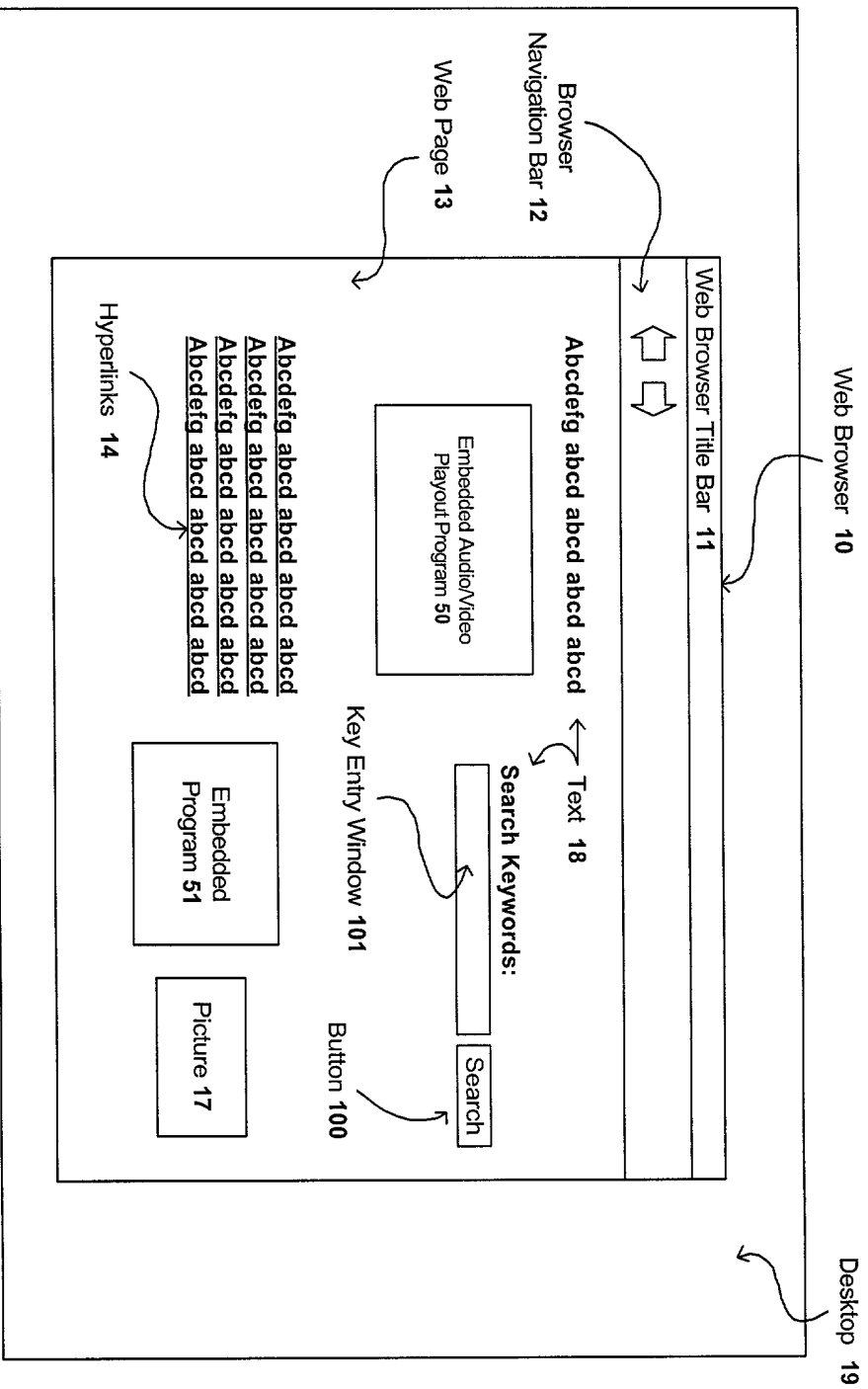


Figure 1. Web Browser With Embedded Audio-Video Play Out Program And Other Web Page Constituents

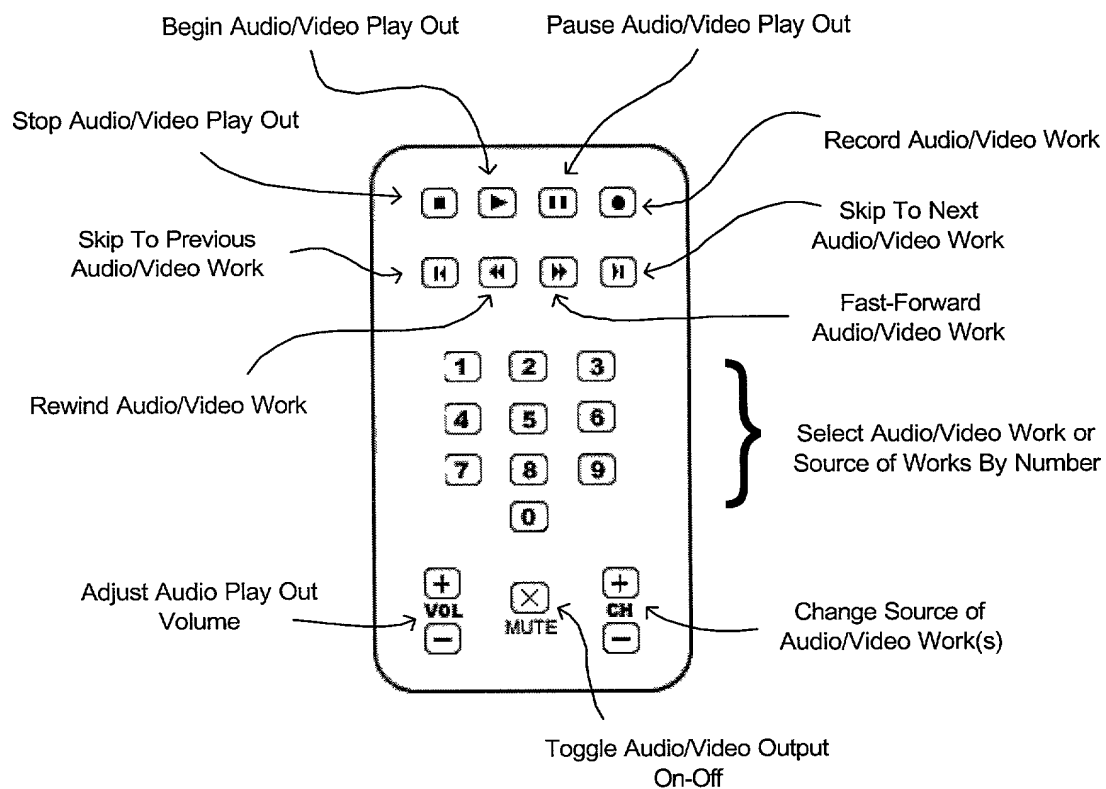


Figure 2. Hand-Held Keypad With Audio/Video Play Out Control Keys

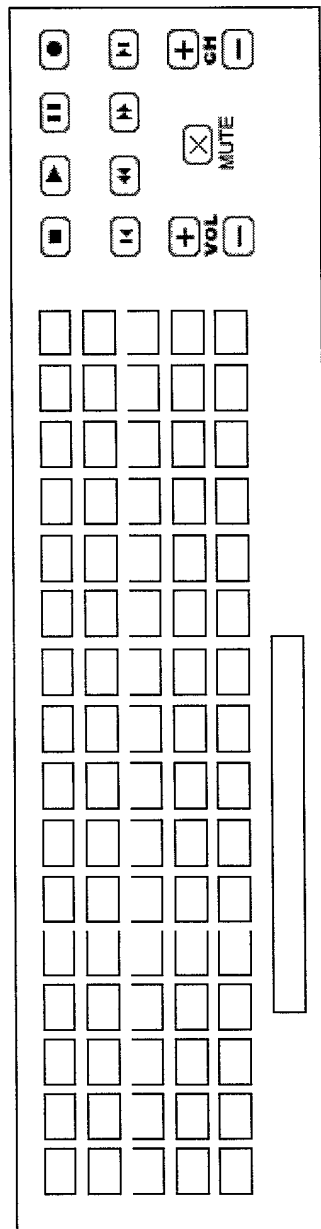


Figure 3. Standard Keyboard With Audio/Video Play Out Control Keys

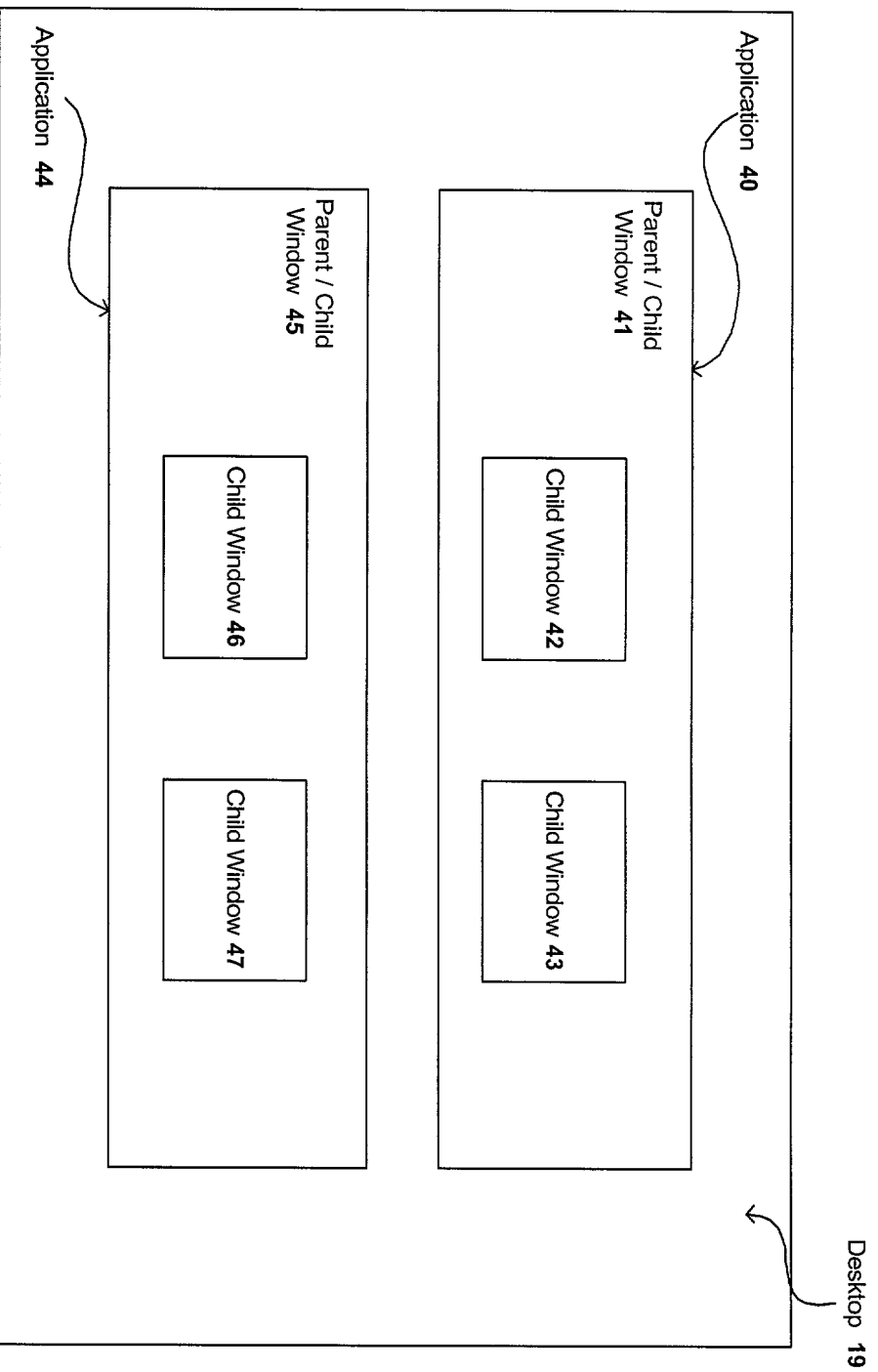


Figure 4. Program Window Hierarchy on Modern Operating Systems

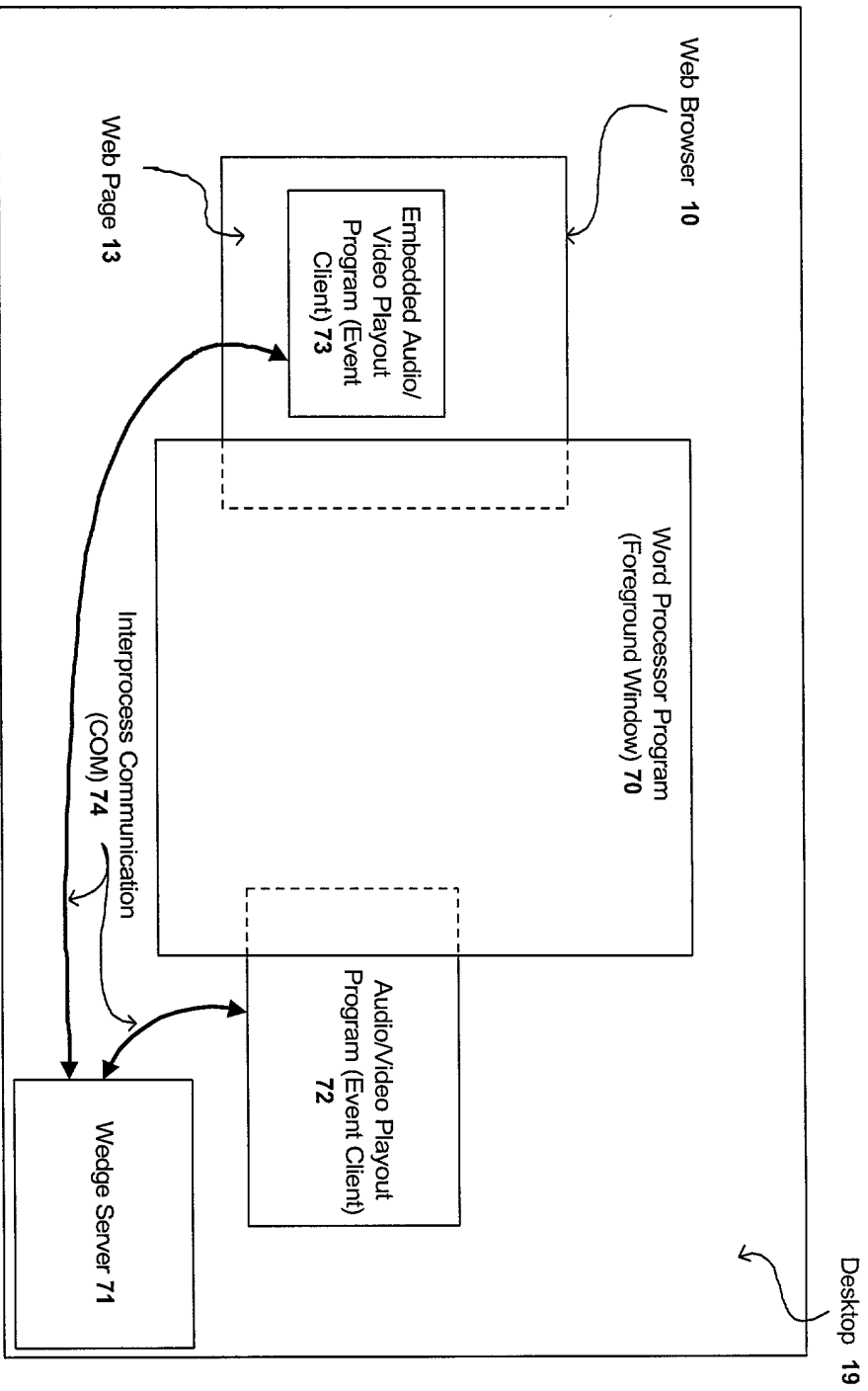


Figure 5. Wedge Server and Event Client Programs

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
IN PATENT APPLICATION**

Attorney Docket No.: 1852-1-3

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**IMPROVED CONTROL OF AUDIO/VIDEO PLAYOUT ON A COMPUTER WITH
DEDICATED AUDIO/VIDEO CONTROL KEYS**

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby appoint the attorneys associated with Customer No. 000996 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Address all correspondence and phone calls to:


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I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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